

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of February 25, 2003 and the Advisory Action of April 16, 2003 have been fully considered. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,841,518. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to further include a classifier wheel. As noted by the Examiner, the '518 patent does not include a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,744,445. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". The '445 patent cannot, therefore anticipate an invention including such a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 3,879,980. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". The '980 patent cannot, therefore anticipate an invention including

such a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US D30,995. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". The '995 patent cannot, therefore anticipate an invention including such a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,522,706. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". The '706 patent cannot, therefore anticipate an invention including such a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,633,856. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". The

'856 patent cannot, therefore anticipate an invention including such a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US D32,793. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". The '793 patent cannot, therefore anticipate an invention including such a classifier wheel. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,899,396. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel. Claim 22 has been amended to further include a classifier wheel further comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein and a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface. The Examiner has indicated in his advisory action that the amended claims, "at first glance appear to fail in circumventing the limitations of US 5,899,396." The Examiner does not explain this statement, nor does he explain his reasoning for backing away from his earlier statement on page 7 of the official action under "Allowable Subject Matter" that "[N]one of the cited references teach a classifier wheel that has upper and lower surfaces connected by vanes...". Applicants respectfully submit that, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the present claims are not anticipated by Nied. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that claims 10-18 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application and claims are in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If any fee is due in conjunction with this submission, deduction of that fee from Deposit Account No. 24-0037 is hereby authorized.

Respectfully submitted,
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